

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

The Examiner is thanked for his comments during a 23 September 2004, interview of which have greatly helped the Applicant in responding to the Office Action.

Claims 1-58 remain in this application. Claims 1-58 have been rejected. Claims 1, 8, 14, 20, 26, 29, 36, 42, 48, and 54 have been amended. It should be noted that Applicant has elected to amend said Claims solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (9/8/00). In making this amendment, Applicant has not and does not in any way narrow the scope of protection to which Applicant considers the invention herein to be entitled and does not concede, in any way, that the subject matter of such Claims was in fact taught or disclosed by the cited prior art. Rather, Applicant reserves Applicant's right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seeks to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 8-9, 13-15, 19-21, 23, 28, 36-37, 41-43, 47-49, 51 and 56-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Abecassis (US 6,553,178 B2). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding Claim 20, Claim 20 has been amended to clarify the invention and appears as follows:

20. A process for a digital video recorder, comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of multimedia programs in digital form on a storage device;

displaying a list of pre-recorded multimedia programs stored on said storage device to a user;

wherein the user selects multimedia programs from said list;

simultaneously playing back at least one of said selected multimedia programs and a multimedia program whose storage is in progress to at least one television monitor; and

wherein said playing back step allows playback rate and direction of each multimedia program to be controlled individually and simultaneously to perform variable rate fast forward and rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions.

As discussed with the Examiner during the 23 September 2004 interview, Logan does not teach or disclose a system wherein said playing back step allows playback rate and direction of each multimedia program to be controlled individually **and simultaneously** to perform variable rate fast forward and rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions as claimed in Claim 20. Logan does not contemplate such a system.

Additionally, as discussed with the Examiner during the aforementioned interview, Abecassis does not teach or disclose a system that simultaneously plays back at least one of said selected multimedia programs and a multimedia program whose storage is in progress to at least one television monitor as claimed in Claim 20. Abecassis does not contemplate such a system.

Therefore, Logan et al. in view of Abecassis do not teach or disclose the invention as claimed.

Claims 20 and 48 are in allowable condition. Claims 8, 14, 36, and 42 are allowable in the same manner. Claims 9, 13, and 15, 19, and 21, 23, 28, 57, and 37, 41, and 43, 47, and 49, 51, 56, 58 are dependent upon independent Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 11, 17, 22, 39, 45 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Abecassis (US 6,553,178 B2) as applied to claims 8, 14, 21, 36, 42 and 49, and further in view of Mankovitz et al ('195 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is deemed moot in view of Applicant's comments regarding Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, above. Claims 11, 17, 22, 39, 45 and 50 are dependent upon Independent Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §103(a).

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 10, 12, 16, 18, 24-25, 38, 40, 44, 46 and 52-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of

Abecassis (US 6,553,178 B2) as applied to claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42 and 48, and further in view of Fujita et al ('619 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is deemed moot in view of Applicant's comments regarding Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, above. Claims 10, 12, and 16, 18, and 24-25, and 38, 40, and 44, 46 and 52-53 are dependent upon Independent Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §103(a).

V. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 26-27 and 54-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Abecassis (US 6,553,178 B2) as applied to claims 20 and 48, and further in view of Kobayashi et al ('254). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is deemed moot in view of Applicant's comments regarding Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, above. Claims 26-27 and 54-55 are dependent upon Independent Claims 20 and 48, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §103(a).

VI. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-2, 6-7, 29-30 and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Kobayashi et al

(‘254) and further in view of Yasukohchi et al (‘837 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 29 have been amended to clarify the invention and appear as follows:

1. A process for a digital video recorder, comprising the steps of:
providing a plurality of input signal tuners;
wherein said tuners accept analog and/or digital television broadcast signals;
wherein each of said tuners is individually tuned to a specific broadcast signal;
converting analog television broadcast signals into a digital signal;
separating a digital signal or digital television broadcast signal into its video and audio components;
storing said video and audio components on a storage device;
providing a plurality of output devices;
wherein each output device extracts a specific video and audio component from said storage device;
decoding each specific video and audio component into a television output signal;
sending television output signals to at least one display device; and
wherein said decoding step allows playback rate and direction of each television output signal to be controlled individually and simultaneously to

perform variable rate fast forward and rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions.

29. An apparatus for a digital video recorder, comprising:
- a plurality of input signal tuners;
 - wherein said tuners accept analog and/or digital television broadcast signals;
 - wherein each of said tuners is individually tuned to a specific broadcast signal;
 - a module for converting analog television broadcast signals into a digital signal;
 - a module for separating a digital signal or digital television broadcast signal into its video and audio components;
 - a module for storing said video and audio components on a storage device;
 - a plurality of output devices;
 - wherein each output device extracts a specific video and audio component from said storage device;
 - a module for decoding each specific video and audio component into a television output signal; and
 - a module for sending television output signals to at least one display device;
 - wherein said decoding module allows playback rate and direction of each television output signal to be controlled individually and simultaneously to

perform variable rate fast forward and rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions.

As discussed above with respect to Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, Logan does not teach or disclose a system wherein said playing back step allows playback rate and direction of each multimedia program to be controlled individually **and simultaneously** to perform variable rate fast forward and rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions as claimed in Claim 20. Logan does not contemplate such a system.

Combining Logan, Kobayashi, and Yasukohchi as the Office Action suggests does not result in the claimed invention.

Therefore, Logan et al. in view of Kobayashi and further in view of Yasukohchi do not teach or disclose the invention as claimed.

Claims 1 and 29 are in allowable condition. Claims 2, 6-7, and 30, 34-35 are dependent upon independent Claims 1 and 29, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

VII. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 3, 5, 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Kobayashi et al ('254) and Yasukohchi et al ('837 B1) as applied to claims 1 and 29, and in further view of Fujita et al ('619 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is deemed moot in view of Applicant's comments regarding Claims 1 and 29, above. Claims 3, 5, and 31, 33 are dependent upon Independent Claims 1 and 29, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §103(a).

VIII. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 4 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Kobayashi et al ('254) and Yasukohchi et al ('837 B1) as applied to claims 1 and 29, and in further view of Mankovitz et al ('195 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is deemed moot in view of Applicant's comments regarding Claims 1 and 29, above. Claims 4 and 32 are dependent upon Independent Claims 1 and 29, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §103(a).

IX. CONCLUSIONS & MISCELLANEOUS

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate. Entry of the amendments herein and further examination on the merits are respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1080 to discuss any issue that may advance prosecution.

No fee is believed to be due specifically in connection with this Reply. To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in connection with this Reply to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: September 29, 2004

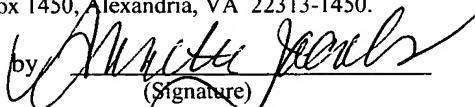

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